

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ACDA-07 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10  
DHA-05 OIC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 /129 W  
-----060825 122224Z /12

R 121430Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1246  
INFO USUN NEW YORK 378

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2657

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UN, TD  
SUBJECT: TRINIDADIAN VIEWS ON 32ND UNGA

REF: STATE 205678

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON OFFICER IN CHARGE OF UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT THE MEA (CYRIL BLANCHFIELD) SEPTEMBER 8 TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. BLANCHFIELD BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THE MEA'S POSITION PAPER ON 32ND UNGA ISSUES HAD NOT YET BEEN DRAFTED BUT THAT HE FORESAW NO SUBSTANTIAL SHIFTS IN EXISTING GOTT POLICIES. HE THOUGHT THE PAPER WOULD GO TO CABINET FOR APPROVAL BY SEPTEMBER 16. THEREFORE, HIS REMARKS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

2. FOLLOWING EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION BASED ON REFTEL, BLANCHFIELD SAID HE EXPECTED NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN GOTT POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS QUESTIONS. HIS GOVERNMENT APPROVED IN GENERAL OF THE U.S. APPROACH ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES, INCLUDING THE YOUNG-OWEN EFFORTS ON RHODESIA. HOWEVER, SINCE THE OAU HAD OFFI-  
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CIALLY RECOGNIZED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS REPRESENTING THAT COUNTRY'S BLACK MAJORITY, HE THOUGHT THE GOTT WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION (REFTEL, RHODESIA, FOUJMG TALKING POINT) SHOULD THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES STAND BEHIND THE OAU DECISION. HE ADDED THAT TRINIDAD WOULD CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE GUERRILLAS FIGHTING AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME, BUT ONLY IN NON-

MILITARY WAYS, I.E., THE GRANTING OF SCHOLARSHIPS.  
BLANCHFIELD ALSO EXPECTED THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT  
TO COME UP IN THE UNGA AND THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD  
SUPPORT THE FORMER'S CLAIM TO THE DISPUTED AREAS, SINCE  
THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ETHNIC BASIS FOR BOUNDARIES IN  
AFRICA WOULD OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX.

3. ON DISARMAMENT, BLANCHFIELD SAID GOTT'S POSITION  
WAS CLEAR AND SIMPLE -- IT OPPOSED THE ARMS RACE AND  
CALLED UPON THE SUPERPOWERS TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY  
TO STOP IT. HIS ONLY OTHER COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT WAS  
THAT THE GOTT WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE US-SOVIET DRAFT  
CONVENTION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, SINCE, HE SAID, TERMS  
WHICH APPEARED IN THE BODY OF THE TEXT WERE NOT DEFINED  
IN THE PREAMBLE. THIS SHORTCOMING LEFT THE DRAFT CONVEN-  
TION OPEN TO WIDELY VARYING INTERPRETATIONS AND UNDERMINED  
ITS POTENTIAL USEFULNESS. BLANCHFIELD OPINED THAT THE  
U.S. NEUTRON BOMB WOULD BECOME A SUBJECT FOR UNGA DEBATE.  
HE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE US POSITIONS ON GUAM AND KOREA  
WITHOUT COMMENT.

4. BLANCHFIELD ASSERTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF  
THE U.S. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE GOTT HAD  
RELATIONS WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARABS AND DID NOT  
ACCEPT ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN ZIONISM AND RACISM, IN HIS  
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VIEW TRINIDAD WOULD BE FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH THE ARABS  
IF THEY EVER SERIOUSLY THREATENED TO USE ECONOMIC PRES-  
SURE, I.E., TO CUT OFF OIL FOR TRINIDAD'S REFINERIES.  
HE EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH US VIEWS ON UN  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, PARTICULARLY FAVORING A CUTBACK  
IN UN CONFERENCES. BLANCHFIELD RAISED THE UN SCALE  
OF ASSESSMENTS ISSUE, STATING THAT TRINIDAD WOULD  
STRONGLY RESIST MAKING LARGER PAYMENTS.

5. BLANCHFIELD DECLINED TO DISCUSS ANY ECONOMIC ISSUES  
IN THE ABSENCE OF AN MEA COLLEAGUE WHO WOULD RETURN  
NEXT WEEK, THOUGH NOTING THAT THESE WERE OF GREAT  
IMPORTANCE TO HIS GOVERNMENT. AS GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,  
HE SAID HE EXPECTED TRINIDAD TO CONTINUE ITS BASIC POLICY  
OF VOTING WITH THE THIRD WORLD ON MANY ISSUES AND OF  
ABSENTING ITSELF FROM UNGA VOTING WHEN DIFFICULT  
QUESTIONS THAT DID NOT IMPINGE DIRECTLY ON TRINIDAD'S  
VITAL INTERESTS WERE AT STAKE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, TD, UN  
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**Review Markings:**  
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